

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1804

June 19, 2014

The Honorable Arne Duncan
Secretary
United States Department of Education
400 Maryland Ave SW
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Secretary Duncan:

I am writing on behalf of the Lafayette Parish School System which has submitted a proposal to the U.S. Department of Education for funding under the U.S. Department of Education's GEAR UP discretionary grant program. It is my pleasure to strongly support the Lafayette Parish School System's efforts to prepare low-income students to enter and succeed in postsecondary education.

Lafayette GEAR UP proposes to significantly increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education by offering non-cognitive and academic skills assistance that begins at the middle school level and continues through high school graduation and the first year of post-secondary education. Lafayette GEAR UP will offer Lafayette middle and high school students the kinds of academic supports, enrichment activities and rigor they need for future success. I understand that Lafayette GEAR UP's college preparation activities will be extensive, including: campus tours, FAFSA help, ACT prep and assistance in filling out college applications. This GEAR UP grant will provide much needed funding to address the needs of this group of students and their families in addition to positively impacting the community as a whole.

I believe you will find the application to be exemplary in every way, and I would appreciate every appropriate consideration, within the applicable guidelines, be given to the Lafayette Parish School System's GEAR UP application during the review. I respectfully request any additional information you can provide on this matter and look forward to hearing from you about the final decision.

Thanking you in advance for your careful review and with kindest regards, I am

Sincerely,



Mary L. Landrieu
United States Senator

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